MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY

"MISSING IN ACTION" CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN?

FACE OFF BETWEEN THE JACK O'LANTERN™ AND SILVER SABLE!™

ACTION! INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE!

FACE IT, TRUE BELIEVER... THIS ONE'S GOT IT ALL...

...EXCEPT THE GUY WITH THE WEBS.

SPIDER-MAN

"SAVAGE IS THE SABLE!"

SAFETY FIRST!

HOLY--!! I KNEW THE *WILD PACK* WAS IN BIG TROUBLE WHEN WE RECEIVED THEIR DISTRESS CALL, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING LIKE *THIS!*

STOP GAWKING, AND GET THAT MEDICAL TEAM IN HERE! *NOW!!*

YOU'RE WASTING VALUABLE TIME!

DOESN'T THIS WOMAN FEEL ANYTHING?!

HER ENTIRE COMBAT UNIT WAS TRASHED, AND *SILVER SABLE* IS AS COOL AND ALOOF AS IF SHE WERE ATTENDING A CONCERT IN THE PARK!

A DECIDEDLY OFFBEAT SPIDER-TALE IN THE MERRY MARVEL TRADITION!

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SO MANY CASUALTIES!

THIS IS BOUND TO RAISE MY MEDICAL INSURANCE RATES!

HOW BAD IS IT, JACKSON?

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE,

WE HAVE A FEW PEOPLE IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT THANKFULLY, NO FATALITIES!

THAT'S A RELIEF!

I NEVER REALIZED THAT SABLE CARED SO MUCH FOR HER MEN!

DON'T KID YOURSELF, PAL!

SHE WAS JUST AFRAID SHE'D HAVE TO PAY OUT A FEW DEATH BENEFITS!

SOMETIME LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY ON EAST 53RD STREET...

SHE FILLED AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER?!

HAS SILVER GONE CRAZY?

WHERE IS MY NIECE?

SHE'S IN THE TRAINING ROOM, SIR.

MISS SABLE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS THAT SHE WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED DURING HER DAILY WORKOUT.

÷HHUMFF÷ NEED I TELL YOU WHERE TO STUFF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?

SILVER, I JUST LEARNED THAT THE ENTIRE *WILD PACK* HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

A BIT OF BAD LUCK, UNCLE MORTY!

AS YOU KNOW, *SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL* HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO APPREHEND A CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL TERRORIST.

OUR MEN FINALLY MANAGED TO LOCATE HIM THIS MORNING...

...MUCH TO THEIR OWN REGRET!

<INCREDIBLE! SHE DODGED ITO'S LUNGE!>*

<BE CAUTIOUS! YOU'RE NEXT--!>

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE--OWZ

<AN EXCELLENT MANEUVER, MISS SABLE! NOT ONLY DID YOU AVOID A SECOND LUNGE, BUT YOU'VE MANAGED TO USE HIS BODY TO HELP FOUL YOUR FIRST OPPONENT!>

<UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF OPEN TO MY ATTACK!>

<NOT QUITE!>

PAY ATTENTION, SILVER...

FWOK!

I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO PAY THESE HOSPITAL BILLS.

FWAMM!

OUR CLIENT WILL COVER THEM.

BARELY MANAGED TO SPIN AROUND IN TIME!

WHAT ABOUT OUR SHORTAGE OF MAN-POWER?!

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO SHIP IN SOME NEW AGENTS FROM *SYMKARIA*.

BUT WE CAN DISCUSS THAT IN THE BRIEFING ROOM WITH OUR *PLANNING AND OPERATIONS* PEOPLE... AFTER I'VE HAD MY SHOWER!

<THANK YOU FOR A MOST INVIGORATING WORKOUT.>

<WE LIVE TO SERVE YOU, MISS SABLE!>

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, IN THE BRIEFING ROOM...

EVERYONE HERE? THEN LET'S BEGIN OUR REVIEW...

OUR CURRENT PROBLEM IS *JASON MACENDALE* --A FORMER *U.S.* MARINE WHO MAY HAVE ALSO HAD EXTENSIVE *CIA* TRAINING!

RUMOR HAS IT THAT MACENDALE'S METHODS PROVED TO BE A BIT TOO EXTREME FOR HIS SUPERIORS.

HE WAS DISMISSED... AND BECAME A MERCENARY ON THE INTER-NATIONAL CIRCUIT.

TERRORISM WAS HIS SPECIALITY!

TO HELP PROMOTE HIS DUBIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED A DISTINCTIVE COSTUME...

...AND BECAME KNOWN AS *JACK O'LANTERN!*

OUR CLIENT, A MINOR SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, BE-LIEVES HIM GUILTY OF TRAINING REBELS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.

THEY WANT HIM NEUTRALIZED!

WE'VE MANAGED TO TO TRACK HIM TO THIS COUNTRY, WHERE HE'S BEEN SEEN BATTLING SOME UNIDENTIFIED ROBOT...

...AS WELL AS THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE KNOWN AS *SPIDER-MAN!*

SPIDER-MAN...!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

UNCLE MORTY, I DO BELIEVE I HAVE A SOLUTION TO OUR MAN-POWER CRISIS...AND WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO NOTIFY *SYMKARIA!*

THAT'S A RELIEF! THE NATIONAL COUNCIL GETS SO TESTY WHEN-EVER I REQUEST ADDITIONAL SUPPORT!

BUT, WE'RE THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR SOURCE OF OUT-SIDE REVENUE!

THAT MAY WELL BE TRUE, BUT MANY MEM-BERS OF THE COUNCIL REMEMBER THAT YOUR FATHER ORIGINALLY FOUNDED THE *WILD PACK,* WITH THE AID OF THE *SYMKARIAN* GOVERNMENT, TO HUNT DOWN NAZI WAR CRIMINALS!

THEY DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT WE NOW HUNT ANYONE ...FOR A PRICE!
THAT'S TOO BAD!
MISS SABLE, THESE FLOWERS JUST ARRIVED FOR YOU!
TAKE CARE OF THEM, JAMES.
YES, MA'AM... BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD SEE THEM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS!
ORCHIDS?!?
GIVE THEM TO ME!
NOW!!
WHAT THE--?!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS SABLE?
YES...
YOU COULD SAY THAT!
RINGG
GOOD AFTERNOON, MY DEAR. I TRUST YOU ENJOYED THE FLOWERS
SLAMM
WAS THAT--?
YES. OUR OLD ENEMY.
GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO COMPOSE YOURSELVES.
THEN, WE'LL DISCUSS MY SOLUTION TO OUR MANPOWER SHORTAGE...

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

I AM SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS, INCOMPETENTS AND ASSASSINS!

DAILY BUGLE

HOW COULD ANYONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND ALLOW AN AD LIKE THIS TO APPEAR IN MY NEWSPAPER?!

CLASSIFIE

ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!

GOOD PAY! EXCELLENT BENEFITS! CALL NOW!

OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY!

ISN'T IT BAD ENOUGH THAT WE GIVE THAT WEB-SWINGING MENACE FREE PUBLICITY? DO WE HAVE TO HELP SOLICIT BUSINESS FOR HIM, TOO?!

AS THE EDITOR IN CHIEF I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, JONAH.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ROBBIE!

YOU'RE EDITORIAL. YOU DON'T SEE THE ADS BEFORE THEY'RE PRINTED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COVER FOR ME, MR. ROBERTSON.

I APPROVED THAT PARTICULAR ADVERTISEMENT, MR. JAMESON.

IS THAT SO?

LISTEN HERE, CORNBLUTH, I EXPECT BETTER JUDGMENT FROM MY DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING!

THE MECHANICAL ARRIVED LATE LAST NIGHT BY BONDED MESSENGER...

...IT CAME WITH A BANK CHECK FOR *DOUBLE* OUR PREMIUM AD RATES!

DOUBLE OUR *PREMIUM* RATES?!

WELL, I, ER =*HARRUMPH*= SUPPOSE EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO ONE MISTAKE, JASPER!

JUST CHECK WITH ROBBIE BEFORE YOU PRINT ANY MORE ADS OF A QUESTIONABLE NATURE!

BY THE WAY, ROBBIE, HAVE YOU SEEN *PARKER* ABOUT?

THE LAST I HEARD HE WAS AWAY ON AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU! FOR *NOW* MAGAZINE!

I EXPECTED HIM BACK LONG BE-FORE NOW...

"...I JUST HOPE HE ISN'T GOOFING OFF SOMEWHERE!"

RINGG

RINGG

RINGG

AT THAT MOMENT, AT KINGSLEY LIMITED...

WHERE'S PETER? WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER HIS PHONE?

KINGSLEY

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM IN DAYS!

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I WISH I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!

ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY...

...FLASH THOMPSON HAS BEEN ARRESTED AS THE HOBGOBLIN! BETTY AND NED LEEDS ARE BREAKING UP! AND, THERE'S OUR OWN SCREWY RELATIONSHIP...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THINGS STAND BETWEEN PETER AND ME ANYMORE!

HURRY IT UP, MARY JANE! MR. KINGSLEY WANTS TO SEE ALL THE MODELS BEFORE THE RUNWAY SHOW!

BE RIGHT THERE, JANICE!

WHERE ARE YOU, PETER? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

ELSEWHERE...

ANY OF YOU GUYS SEE THIS AD IN THE PAPER?

OTER'S Gym

PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?

FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN THAT THE BOSS AIN'T GONNA THINK SO!

HOLY--!

DAILY BUGLE

YOU'RE RIGHT!!

ZHOO

OOOOM

I HAVE BATTLED SPIDER-MAN BEFORE!

HE'S NO SPRING WEEKEND!

HIS SPEED AND AGILITY MAKE HIM MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MY WRIST-BLASTERS AND POGO PLATFORM!

BOING

JACK O' LANTERN!

BOING

YOU BUMS MAY HAVE BEEN LUCKY AGAINST SILVER SABLE'S HIRELINGS. YOU WON'T FARE AS WELL AGAINST THE WEB-SWINGER!

WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT WOMAN TO ENLIST HIM AGAINST US!

SHE MUST BE STOPPED!

PERMANENTLY!!

SOMETIME LATER...

THIS IS *NEW YORK LIFESTYLES*, AND I'M YOUR HOST, *JOHN DANCER!*

MY GUEST TODAY IS THE VERY LOVELY *MS. SILVER SABLE!*

WORLD NEWS WEEKLY CALLS HER COMPANY "THE MOST EFFICIENT DETECTIVE AGENCY ON EARTH!"

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT *SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL...*

CERTAINLY, JOHN, ESSENTIALLY, WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF APPREHENDING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS.

OUR CLIENTS USUALLY RANGE FROM MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF SMALL NATIONS.

ALL OF NEW YORK IS BUZZING ABOUT THIS AD.

CLASSIFIED

ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!

CAN YOU TELL US THE STORY BEHIND IT?

I'M AFRAID NOT, JOHN. THAT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN ME AND SPIDER-MAN.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I NEED HIS HELP.

AND, I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR IT... *MOST GENEROUSLY!*

AND, SHORTLY...

NY TV Stu

DO YOU THINK THAT INTERVIEW WILL HELP GET THE WEB-SWINGER'S ATTENTION?

WHO KNOWS?

TAKE THE LIMO BACK TO THE EMBASSY, AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER.

I FEEL LIKE WALKING.

I ENJOY WALKING ALONE. TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO DO IT MORE OFTEN.

I GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SEND BACK TO SYMKARIA FOR MORE MEN IF I DON'T HEAR FROM SPIDER-MAN SOON.

UNCLE MORTY WILL BE FURIOUS! HE HATES THE IDEA OF USING THE *WILD PACK* FOR PROFIT!

HE'S CONVINCED THAT I'VE PERVERTED MY FATHER'S ORIGINAL DREAM!

BUT, WE HAD TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES! THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY NAZI WAR CRIMINALS RUNNING AROUND ANYMORE.

BESIDES, SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE OF THE SYMKARIAN ECONOMY!

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WOULD GO UNDER WITHOUT US! I CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME FROM MY TRUE RESPONSIBILITIES...

BDAM! BDAM!

GUNSHOTS--!!

A HOLD-UP!

MOVE IT, YOU CLOWNS!

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! THE CASHIER WOULDN'T COME ACROSS, SO I HAD TO PUT HIM DOWN!

DON'T ALL PILE INTO THE SAME CAR, JERKS!

WE BROUGHT TWO, REMEMBER?

C'MON, SNAKE!

BUT, THEN, AS SNAKE SPINS AROUND...

OUT OF MY WAY, LADY!

I'M WARNING YOU--!!

BDAM! BDAM!

HURRY!!

STUPID BIMBO...

"...WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GET IN MY WAY?!"

M-MOMMY--?!

MOMMY!!

THE CHILD'S CRY SINGES THE AIR, AND SILVER SABLE SUDDENLY RE-MEMBERS ANOTHER CHILD...

ANOTHER VICTIM...

ANOTHER INNOCENT WHOSE LIFE WAS IRREVOCABLY SCARRED BY VIOLENCE!

AND, THEN...

ZOOM!

SPLITTING UP IN DIFFERENT CARS WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS ON SNAKE'S PART!

MAYBE SO, BUT I THINK THE GUY'S GONE PSYCHO! OFFING A CASHIER'S ONE THING, BUT THAT LADY IN THE STREET... DEFINITELY NOT COOL!

DON'T BE A WIMP, MAN!

THUNK!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING LANDED ON THE--

LOOK OUT!!

CRASHH!!

PWAK!!

I WANT THE ONE CALLED SNAKE!

WHERE IS HE?

Y-YOU CRAZY, LADY?

Y-YOU TRYING TO KILL US ALL?

NO... JUST YOU... IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!

TALK!!

Y-YEAH, SURE...

LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY...

MY WORD, SILVER! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN IN A STREET BRAWL!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE, UNCLE MORTY.

ANY WORD FROM SPIDER-MAN?

NOT YET.

CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE REST OF THE AFTER-NOON, JAMES.

I MUST ATTEND TO SOME RATHER PERSONAL BUSINESS!

SLAMM!

PERSONAL BUSINESS?!

DON'T ASK ME!

I REALLY SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!

I HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO UPHOLD...

...AND I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED IN A COMMON STREET ROBBERY!

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLIENT!

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I CAN JUSTIFY THIS!

OH, WELL...

...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO COVER THE EXPENSES MYSELF!

VA-ZOOM!!

HELLO, JACK...

GATHER YOUR WEAPONS!

THAT WAS BABYFACE AT THE EMBASSY! SABLE'S ON THE MOVE!

I HEARD THAT LADY WAS PRETTY TOUGH! IS IT WISE FOR US TO GO AFTER HER?

NOT REALLY...

...BUT, IT'S EVEN LESS WISE TO LET HER COME AFTER US!

BOING!

ELSEWHERE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

WHERE'S PARKER?

Y PD

POLICE

HE PROMISED TO VISIT ME TODAY! WHERE IS HE? DOESN'T HE REALIZE WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?

EVERYONE THINKS I'M THE COSTUMED VILLAIN CALLED THE *HOBGOBLIN*, AND I NEED ALL THE FRIENDS I CAN GET!

MAY AS WELL FACE FACTS, THOMPSON-- PUNY PARKER BAILED OUT ON YOU!

HE'S DESERTED YOU LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE!

OTHERWISE, HE'D BE HERE!

MEANWHILE...

YOU SAY SHE ENTERED THAT OLD TENEMENT. WHY?

I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS!

I SUPPOSE IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY!

SURROUND THE PLACE, MEN! COVER ALL THE EXITS!

I WANT THAT WOMAN DEAD!

WE HEAR YA, JACK!

THERE! I HEARD IT AGAIN!

IT'S JUST THE WIND, SNAKE!

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE WE GET THE HEAT GOING ON THE OL' PROPANE!

NO! I'M SURE SOMEONE'S MOVING AROUND UPSTAIRS!

ELIOT! WILLIE! I WANT YOU GUYS TO SCOPE OUT THE UPPER FLOORS!

SURE, SURE, MAN... WHATEVER YOU SAY!

WHEW! THAT DUDE'S IN HIGH GEAR!

WHY DO YOU FIGURE HE'S SO SPOOKED?

IT'S GOTTA BE THE BROAD! YOU DON'T ICE A FRAIL WITHOUT PAYING A--

--PRICE?!

FWOK!

PWAP!

A MOST *PAINFUL* PRICE, MY FRIEND!

GOT TO KEEP MOVING! I HEAR OTHERS WALKING--

"--ON THE LANDING BELOW!"

COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

THOSE GENTLEMEN CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY STREET PUNKS I'VE EVER SEEN!

THEY'RE ALL CARRYING UZI SUB-MACHINE GUNS!

METHINKS IT'S TIME FOR MY OWN HEAVY ARTILLERY!

KEEP TOGETHER! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY-BODY!

FOKK

URRK

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, HARRAS?

I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO ANSWER YOU, ARMAND!

WHAT THE--?!

HEY! LOOK AT THAT THING ON THE FLOOR!

FOKK

FOKK

IT'S CALLED A *CHAI*-- A WEAPON OF MY OWN INVENTION! VERY EFFICIENT, YES?

I RECOGNIZE THESE MEN! THEY'RE WANTED CRIMINALS--MERCENARIES WITH PRICES ON THEIR HEADS!

THIS OUTING MAY PROVE PROFITABLE AFTER ALL!

MEANWHILE...

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

PUNKS?! WHY WOULD SABLE BE INTERESTED IN SUCH AS THESE?

I-I DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MAN!

ELSEWHERE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS FOR ONE BROAD!

WORD IS SHE'S REAL GOOD!

GIMME A BREAK! HOW GOOD COULD SHE POSSI-BLY BE?

THE BEST!

BWAK!

=UGNN=

F-FREEZE, LADY! I GOT YOU--

SWAT!

FA-KWASH!

--COVERED=

WE'RE GETTING MURDERED, JACK! I JUST FOUND FIVE MORE OF OUR GUYS LAID OUT IN THE HALL!

THAT BLASTED WOMAN WILL SMASH MY ENTIRE MERCENARY FORCE IF I DON'T TAKE CHARGE!

GET THE REMAINING MEN OUTSIDE! NOW!!

I'LL STOP HER MYSELF!

MOMENTS LATER...

ODD! THERE WAS A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTIVITY, AND NOW THE PLACE IS AS QUIET AS A TOMB!

=MFFF=

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

HARDLY!!

I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS BAIT!

JACK O'LANTERN!!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MET, MY DEAR! YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOUNDING ME ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR MONTHS!

BWANG!

DON'T BOTHER WASTING YOUR CHAIS ON ME, LOVELY LADY! THEY'LL NEVER PENETRATE MY ARMORED HELMET!

IT'S A PITY THAT YOU LACK SIMILAR PROTECTION--

--FROM MY GAS GRENADES!

BWOOM!

I'M NOT PREPARED TO FACE ANYONE LIKE HIM! DIDN'T BRING THE PROPER WEAPONRY!

GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO IMPROVISE!

CRASHING INTO THIS ROOM WILL GET ME AWAY FROM THE GAS, AND BUY ME A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS!

I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND SOMETHING THAT CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON!

GOTTA KEEP WORKING MY BONDS! I CAN FEEL THEM LOOSENING!

SURELY, YOU DON'T THINK AN OLD CHAIR WILL BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ME!

WHY NOT?

THESE STAVES ARE GOOD AND STURDY!

BESIDES, ANYTHING CAN BECOME A DEADLY WEAPON IN MY HANDS!

I AM QUITE UN-IMPRESSED, SABLE!

THOSE CHUNKS OF WOOD BARELY PROVIDED YOU WITH A MOMENT'S DISTRACTION!

TRUE--

--BUT, THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO POSITION MYSELF TO MEET THE TIP OF YOUR POGO PLATFORM--

BOING!

KRAK

--AND SEND YOU SMASHING UPWARD!!

FINALLY MANAGED TO GET FREE.

=MFFF=

BLAST IT ALL! SNAKE'S GETTING AWAY!

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW!

GOT TO REACH THIS PROPANE HEATER I NOTICED EARLIER!

THESE PUNKS MUST HAVE USED IT TO WARM THIS RAT TRAP!

I CAN HEAR JACK O' LANTERN BOUNCING IN BEHIND ME!

GOT TO SNAP THE PROPANE GAS ON HIGH--

--AND HOPE HIS FLAMING HELMET DOES THE REST!

KA-

BWOOM!

UNN THE CONCUSSIVE FORCE BLEW ME OUTSIDE!

SHATTERED MY HELMET! HEAD'S POUNDING!

BOING!

I DO BELIEVE A STRATEGIC RETREAT IS IN ORDER!

MANAGED TO AVOID THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST, BUT I'D BETTER GET THESE KIDS OUT OF HERE!

A CHAI--!

UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THAT CEILING!

WHEW BARELY GOT OUT BEFORE IT COLLAPSED!

NOW, THEN, WHERE'S JACK?

THERE HE IS! MINUS HIS PUMPKIN HEAD!

AND THERE GOES SNAKE!

SWELL! I ONLY HAVE THE ONE CHAI!

POKK!

UGNN

WHEN THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY FIND **SILVER SABLE** STILL STANDING OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS **SNAKE**...

BOTH OF HIS HANDS HAVE BEEN BROKEN, AND HIS FACE IS COVERED WITH SPIT.

SOMETIME LATER...

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PHONED EARLIER TO REPORT THAT YOU HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF GANGWAR!

NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, UNCLE. I MERELY TRACKED DOWN A FEW OF JACK O'LANTERN'S MEN.

MANAGED TO APPREHEND ELEVEN OF THEM--WHICH SHOULD ADD UP TO QUITE A REWARD!

WHAT ABOUT THAT STREET GANG YOU HELPED CAPTURE?

MERELY A BONUS FOR THE POLICE.

I SINCERELY DOUBT ANY REWARD HAD BEEN POSTED FOR THEM.

WHEN I HEARD THAT THEY HAD GUNNED DOWNED AN INNOCENT WOMAN IN THE STREET, I REMEMBERED HOW...

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, UNCLE MORTY. CERTAIN MEMORIES SHOULD *NEVER* BE UNLEASHED!

BY THE WAY, HAVE WE HEARD FROM SPIDER-MAN YET?

NO.

HUMFF I WONDER WHY NOT? WHERE IS HE?!

EPILOGUE: HOURS LATER, AS THE PEOPLE OF TEMPLE CORNERS, VIRGINIA, GATHER BEHIND NATIONAL GUARD BARRICADES TO WATCH THEIR FUTURE SMOLDER AND FADE...

HERE'S YOUR TEA, MS. MERCADO. THE CAPTAIN SAYS DE-BRIEFINGS ARE ALMOST OVER-- YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PHONE YOUR EDITOR SOON.

THANK YOU, CORPORAL.

CHARLA AND SETH ARE OKAY: THEIR STORY SHOULD SELL A LOT OF MAGAZINES.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO LET THE ROXXON ANGLE GO FOR NOW.

IT SEEMS ALL EVIDENCE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WAS DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION AND I CAN'T FILE A STORY BASED ON HEARSAY.

I CAN, HOWEVER, KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON THEM.

BUT EVEN THAT'S NOT THE BIG PROBLEM-- *THAT* PRIZE GOES TO PETER!

NOBODY'S BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM SINCE THE BLAST. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE... HE'S DEAD...

...BUT HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN LOST IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE MIGHT NEED *HELP*.

BLAST IT ALL--

"--WHERE *IS* PETER PARKER?!"

Shadowcat